

ABSTRACT

A novel method and apparatus for performing cell selection handoffs in a wireless communication system is disclosed. The CSHO method and apparatus of the present invention determines which transmitters to temporarily disable or "gate off" during soft handoff procedures. The method and apparatus of the present invention monitors the channel conditions for all base stations in an active set of a selected mobile station and determines the relative strengths of base stations based on the monitored channel conditions. The method and apparatus of the present invention reduces interference to receivers in a wireless communication system. Specifically, the present invention temporarily disables, or "gates off" selected transmitters (*e.g.*, base stations) during soft handoff procedures and thereby reduces interference to receivers that are not associated with the selected transmitters. Reducing this interference increases the overall voice and data capacity in a wireless communication system.